

Members

Rep. Terry Goodin, Vice-Chairperson
Rep. Robert Bischoff
Rep. Phyllis Pond
Rep. William Ruppel
Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. David Ford
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. James Lewis



INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LSA Staff:

Susan Montgomery, Attorney for the Committee
John Parkey, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Authority: IC 15-1-1.5-4

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 27, 2003
Meeting Time: 3:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: The Center for Agricultural Science
and Heritage, 1201 E. 38th Street,
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Terry Goodin, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Robert Bischoff;
Rep. Phyllis Pond; Rep. William Ruppel; Sen. James Merritt,
Vice-Chairperson; Sen. David Ford; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen.
James Lewis.

Members Absent: None.

Chairperson Goodin called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

1. Report of the 2003 Indiana State Fair

Executive Director William Stinson of the Indiana State Fair furnished the committee with the 2003 State Fair Results (Exhibit A). He noted that the anticipated profit of the 2003 Fair would be \$913,000, and the record attendance led to the profit. The big project for 2004 is the renovation of the 4-H dormitory into an education complex, and part of this profit will go into the improvements. In answer to a question from Representative Pond,

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Mr. Stinson agreed that the modernized buildings undoubtedly led to the higher attendance. He said that the Fair of 2004 will be unique with the 4-H buildings coming back to use. As 2004 will be the 100th anniversary of 4-H, he invited the Committee to the special opening ceremony on August 11.

Representative Pond shared a story of her days as a 4-H leader when a boy named Don Marsh was in her unit in Eaton, Indiana. Mr. Stinson commented that Marsh Supermarkets has been a prominent and appreciated supporter of the Fair over the years. Mr. Stinson then provided the Committee with the 2002 Indiana State Fair Commission Report (Exhibit B), balance sheets and information about the revenue for 2002.

2. Report of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage

Betsy Jones, Executive Director of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (C.A.S.H.), presented the Committee with various documents pertaining to C.A.S.H.; Leadership Structure chart (Exhibit C), Annual Meeting memorandum (Exhibit D), Minutes (Exhibit E), Professional Services Agreement (Exhibit F), and the Statement of Financial Position (Exhibit G). Cress Hizer, Chairman of the C.A.S.H. Board of Directors, welcomed everyone to the Barn, and stated that C.A.S.H. has a new partnership with the Indiana State Fair Commission (Commission). With recent legislative changes, he is now a voting member on the Commission as the C.A.S.H. representative.

Representative Bischoff and former Senator Dick Thompson asked that the Committee consider PD 3227 (Exhibit H), making C.A.S.H. a quasi-governmental unit. Among other reasons for the bill draft, since C.A.S.H. works with the Commission, it was thought that two entities that are both quasi-governmental units might function better together. Representative Ruppel asked about the Commission's lack of inclusion in the budget, and Mr. Stinson answered that the Fair has self-generated revenue. It also gets mill tax and gaming revenue, but is not a line item in the budget. Mr. Stinson added that the Fair employees are members of the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF) and are covered by state health insurance. The Professional Services Agreement (Exhibit F) is in the process of review at the Attorney General's office, and Mr. Stinson stated that agreement would give C.A.S.H. \$600,000 in payment from the Commission a year.

The Committee instructed legal staff from the Legislative Services Agency to research the issues of health insurance and PERF for the C.A.S.H. employees. Representative Pond moved, with further amendment, that the Committee state its support of the concept of C.A.S.H. converting to a quasi-governmental unit. The motion was adopted by voice vote. A bill will be prepared under Representative Bischoff's authorship to that end.

Senator Craycraft suggested that the Committee plan its first meeting in 2004 to be held August 11, 2004, in order for the Committee to attend the opening ceremonies at the Fair. In response to a question from Representative Pond, Mr. Stinson stated that the Fair receives \$6,200,000 yearly in gaming revenue.

There being no further business before the Committee, Representative Goodin adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.